

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) is the state agency responsible for overseeing the development of the 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan. Participation from citizens, agencies, groups, organizations and others concerned with housing and community development in Washington State was encouraged to participate throughout the planning process.

Purpose

The Consolidated Plan determines priorities, establishes strategic goals, and allocates resources for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded programs administered by the state, namely: the HOME Partnership Investments (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), Housing Opportunities for Persons With Aids (HOPWA), and state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs.

Parts of the Consolidated Plan

The required elements of the state's Consolidated Plan include:

- An assessment of housing and community development needs for the ensuing five-year period;
- An analysis of the state's housing markets;
- A discussion of the state's strategies, priority needs, and objectives for housing and community development activities; and,
- An action plan describing the state's method for distributing 2005 HUD funds to carry out activities in support of the state's strategic plan.

Citizen Participation Efforts

Citizen participation is an essential part of all of CTED's programs that focus on locally identified needs and priorities. In addition to the information and insight gathered through the public input processes, CTED acknowledges the valuable advice and counsel that has been provided by numerous federal, state, non-profit and tribal governments on housing and community development needs. This involvement demonstrates the keen interest generated at all levels over some of the most pressing issues facing our citizens today and over the next five years.

Inter- and Intra-Agency Consultation

Through surveys, community meetings and conferences the following federal, state, tribal and non-profit organizations were consulted on priority housing and community development needs in Washington State.

Association of Washington Cities
Association of Washington Housing Authorities
Washington State Association of Counties
Habitat for Humanity
Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council
Northwest Justice Project
Washington State Coalition for the Homeless
Washington State Community Action Partnership

Washington Economic Development Association

Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED):

- Community Services Division

- Economic Development Division

- Local Government Division

 - Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

 - Community Development Programs Unit

 - Community Development Block Grant Program

 - Growth Management Unit

 - Washington State Public Works Board

- Housing Services Division

 - Resource Allocation Unit

 - Contract Compliance and Asset Management Unit

 - Housing Assistance Unit

 - Housing Improvements and Preservation Unit

 - Lead-Based Paint Program

 - Policy Advisory Team

 - Washington State Affordable Housing Advisory Board

 - State Advisory Council on Homelessness

- Resource Team

- Washington Community – Economic Revitalization Team (WA-CERT)

Washington State Department of Corrections

Washington State Department of Ecology

Washington State Department of Health

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Washington State Department of Transportation

US Department of Agriculture / Forest Service

US Department of Agriculture / Rural Development

Yakama Nation

Colville Confederated Tribes

Tulalip Tribes

Regional Meetings

Regional meetings were held in Brewster, Centralia, Everett, Spokane and Yakima in July of 2004 to discuss housing and community development needs and strategies for the Consolidated Plan. Meetings were held in locations around the state to encourage as much participation as possible from rural and mid-size communities as well as from the urban areas in our state. Regional workshops were advertised through letters, e-mails and advertisements in regional newspapers. Workshops were held from 1:00 to 4:00 in all five locations. Agenda topics included a description of the Consolidated Plan purposes and process, and an overview of existing housing and community development programs and funding levels. Background data were provided for both housing and community development. Following the presentation, attendees were asked to participate in small breakout groups to evaluate a set of draft strategies and provide additional ideas for future use and targeting of housing and community development resources. The summary report of the regional meetings was made available to each of the participants and has been retained as a formal record of the events. Attendees were also encouraged to attend the public hearings and to submit any written comments on the draft plan to CTED.

Public Hearing

A notice was published on August 25, 2004, in the following newspapers: Ellensburg Daily Record, Longview Daily News, Spokane Spokesman Review, Seattle Times, Wenatchee World and the Yakima Herald. The notice informed the general public of the public hearings being held on September 8 and 10, 2004 on the Consolidated Plan. The notice provided a summary of the proposed Consolidated Plan and a list of locations where copies of the entire proposed Consolidated Plan could be examined. Notice of the public hearings were also distributed to local governments and other interested groups in the community. The needs assessment information and draft strategies that relate to the Consolidated Plan were also available on CTED's website as of September 1, 2004.

The state held four public hearings, two on September 8, 2004 and two on September 10, 2004. The hearings on the 8th were in Spokane and SeaTac, the hearings on the 10th were in Wenatchee and Vancouver. Participants at the hearings provided testimony on housing and community development needs and provided input on how funds should be targeted in the CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA programs. The proceedings of the hearings were recorded by a court recorder and have been retained as a formal record of the event.

Public Comment Period

Copies of the proposed 2005 – 2009 Consolidated Plan were made available by CTED on September 29, 2004. Copies were also made available at regional libraries and at Community Action Agencies, after September 29, 2004. Notification of the availability of the Plan was advertised within the notices published on August 25, 2004 for the public hearing and in two newspapers of general circulation on September 27, 2004. Notices to interested parties were also distributed by e-mail on September 29, 2004 asking them to send written comments through November 1, 2004 to CTED.